



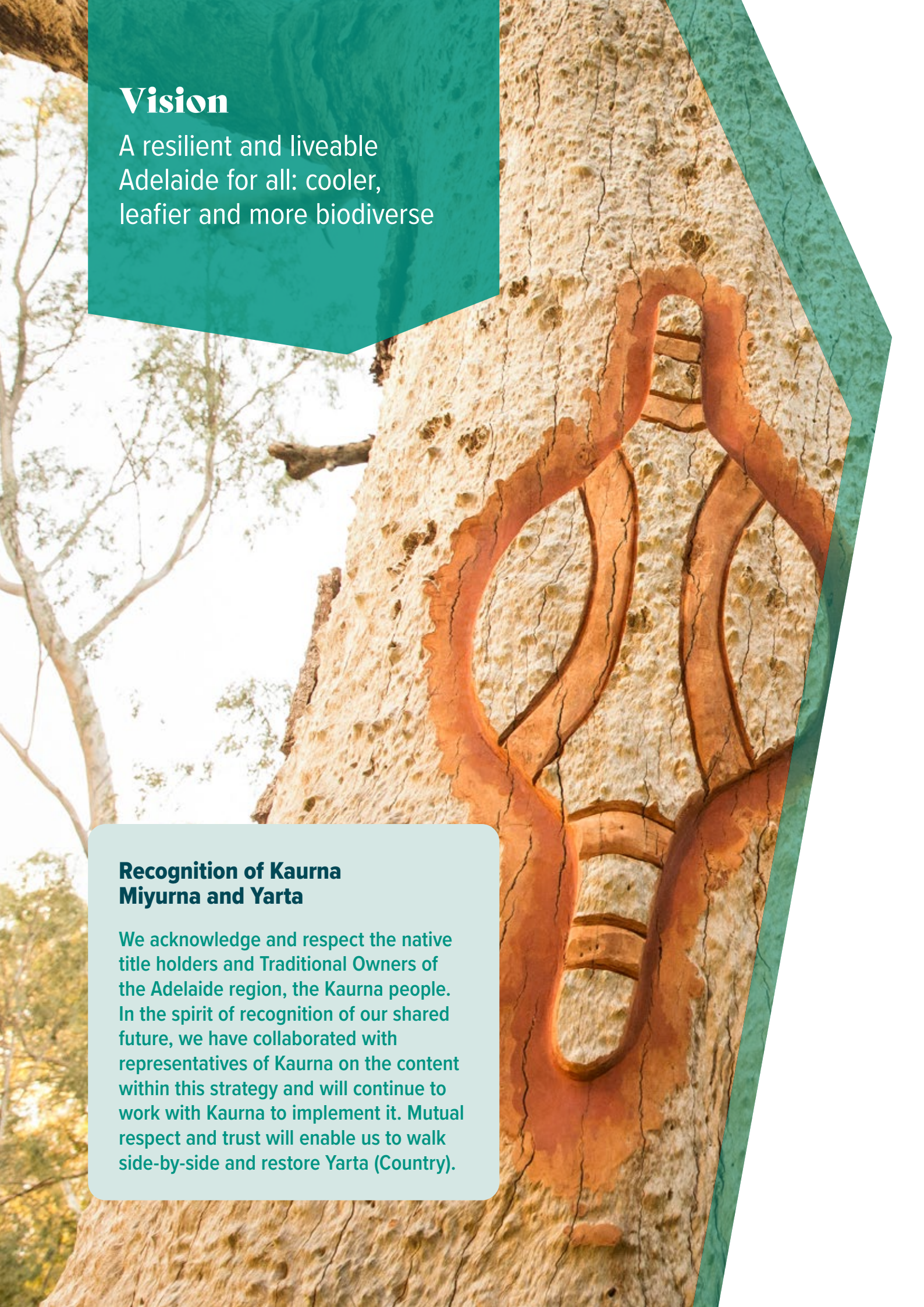
Urban Greening Strategy

A resilient and
liveable Adelaide for all

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION – COMMUNITY SUMMARY



Government of
South Australia



Vision

A resilient and liveable
Adelaide for all: cooler,
leafier and more biodiverse

Recognition of Kurna Miyurna and Yarta

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and Traditional Owners of the Adelaide region, the Kurna people. In the spirit of recognition of our shared future, we have collaborated with representatives of Kurna on the content within this strategy and will continue to work with Kurna to implement it. Mutual respect and trust will enable us to walk side-by-side and restore Yarta (Country).

Adelaide's first metropolitan-wide strategy to boost urban greenery

For Adelaide's urban environment to thrive, we need a roadmap for increasing tree canopy, cooling the city and boosting biodiversity.

Metropolitan Adelaide has almost 17%* tree canopy cover, but this isn't evenly distributed across our suburbs.

The strategy brings together state government, metropolitan councils, non-government organisations, industry peak bodies, research institutions, Koorana people and the broader community to achieve a more resilient and liveable city by 2050. Everyone has a different, but important, role to play.

The strategy identifies priority actions that:

- fill known gaps or scale up what is already working well
- unlock metropolitan-wide benefits
- harness cross-sector collaboration and/or co-investment.

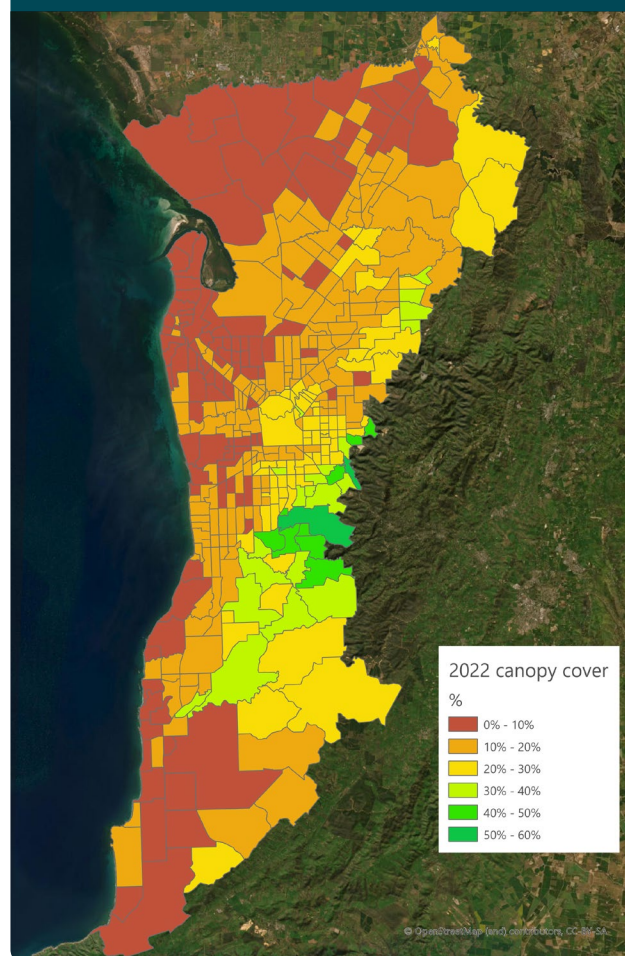
The strategy also seeks to investigate and establish consistent and shared monitoring as well as performance indicators and targets for tree canopy, tree species diversity and urban heat to better track urban greening progress across metropolitan Adelaide.

What are the challenges with protecting and growing Adelaide's urban greenery?

The strategy addresses local concerns about Adelaide's resilience and liveability, including:

- loss of mature trees
- impacts of greater housing density on our neighbourhoods
- competition for space with hard infrastructure
- adequate water for healthy and thriving green spaces
- retaining and building nature into the city
- impacts of climate change.

Tree canopy cover across suburbs in metropolitan Adelaide in 2022*



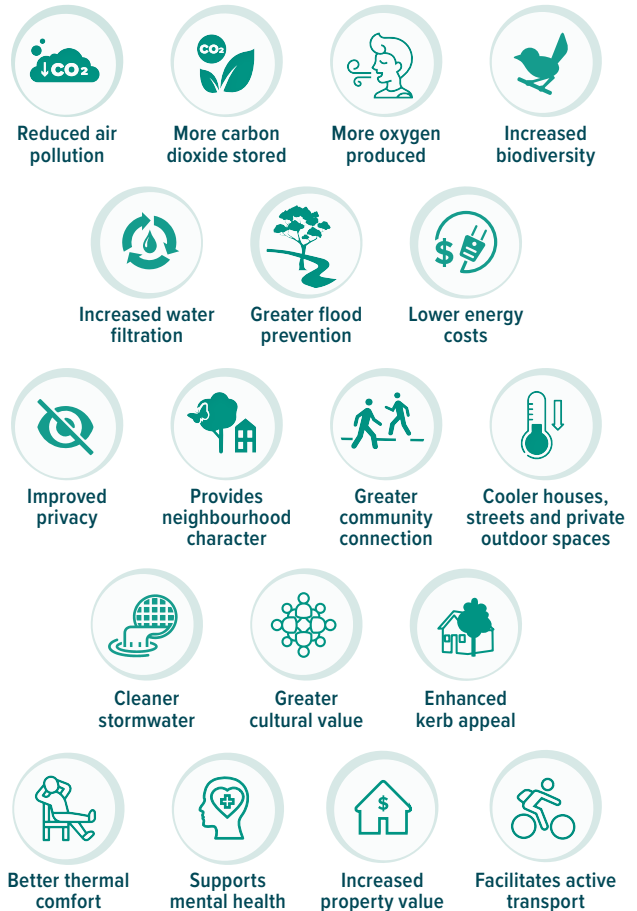
* Source: Green Adelaide's 2022 tree canopy data capture of metropolitan Adelaide (greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/projects/urban-heat-and-tree-canopy-mapping)

What is urban greening?

Urban greening means planting trees and other plants in our streets, parks and gardens, along creeks and rivers and in and around buildings.

What are the benefits of urban greening?

The benefits to people, economies and nature in cities include:



Greening priorities for metropolitan Adelaide

There are 6 priority areas for action to increase metropolitan Adelaide's tree canopy, cool the city and boost biodiversity.

The next section explains each priority, the actions to achieve it, and the expected outcomes.



1. Cooler and greener infill development

Infill housing makes up a significant proportion of new housing in metropolitan Adelaide. It can be challenging to balance the benefits of more housing options close to shops and services with keeping our neighbourhoods cool and leafy. An integrated package of initiatives will be undertaken to drive cooler, greener and more biodiverse places to live.

Outcomes	Ref	Actions
Policy and legislation better support urban greening and are in line with national best practice	1.1	Strengthen tree protection legislation (and associated offset schemes) to align with best practice and reflect the true value of existing trees
	1.2	Review and refine the Urban Green Cover target (and policies) as part of the new Greater Adelaide Regional Plan
Developers and community have increased knowledge, motivation and capacity to practically and cost-effectively achieve greening, cooling and biodiversity outcomes	1.3	Monitor and enhance the Planning and Design Code and develop supporting tools to make it easier for developers to achieve, and go beyond, minimum requirements
	1.4	Undertake coordinated metropolitan-wide campaigns (linked to incentives) targeted at improving urban greening outcomes
	1.5	Develop a catalogue of costed housing designs that showcase practical and affordable greening, water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and biodiversity sensitive urban design (BSUD)
New developments include trees by adopting innovative and cost effective solutions	1.6	Work with the development sector to understand urban greening drivers and encourage innovation and adoption of best practice (including identifying effective incentives)
	1.7	Develop best practice engineering solutions, planting and maintenance techniques to minimise conflicts between green and grey infrastructure (building footings and infrastructure)

Table 1: Outcomes and actions.



2. Government leading by example

Expanding urban tree canopy in public spaces will become even more important for supporting sustainable and liveable neighbourhoods because more people have small, or no, front and back gardens. State and local government have important roles to play to identify and showcase innovative solutions to achieve greening outcomes while balancing challenges with infrastructure and other constraints.

Outcomes	Ref	Actions
Innovative and best practice green and blue infrastructure is showcased in government infrastructure works and major projects	2.1	Integrate urban greening and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) as part of business-as-usual in government projects including: • transport infrastructure upgrades, particularly roads with a high level of pedestrian and cyclist activity • major land releases • new schools and significant upgrades • SA Water assets • healthcare facilities • other government land
	2.2	State and local governments to deliver flagship greening, biodiversity sensitive urban design (BSUD) and WSUD projects that cross boundaries and set new benchmarks
Barriers to BSUD and WSUD are solved to accelerate implementation	2.3	Identify and implement solutions to key barriers to BSUD and WSUD in public infrastructure and projects, such as maintenance
	2.4	Investigate alternative approaches to installing utilities infrastructure in roadways to create more space for trees
	2.5	Review restrictions on planting near utilities infrastructure, including permitted species lists
Trees are appropriately valued as essential community assets that contribute to the wellbeing of our community and environment	2.6	Determine and apply an agreed method for applying economic valuations to trees and other green infrastructure
	2.7	Investigate including green infrastructure into public asset management systems and account for trees as appreciating assets

Table 2: Outcomes and actions.



3. Building nature back in

Cities are increasingly recognised for their important role in supporting biodiversity. The concept of biodiversity sensitive urban design (BSUD) aims to create built environments that make a positive, on-site contribution to biodiversity while meeting other urban greening or development outcomes. Biodiverse greening enhances health and wellbeing, increases habitat for native wildlife and connects people with nature – right on their doorsteps.

Outcomes	Ref	Actions
More biodiversity net gain development	3.1	Investigate how the planning system and other government legislation could best facilitate biodiversity net gain development
Increased motivation and capacity to undertake BSUD (government, council, developer and community)	3.2	Develop a BSUD capacity-building program, including design guidance, for the government, the development sectors and the community
	3.3	Develop a region-wide approach to supporting individuals and community groups to undertake biodiverse urban greening on private land, open space and schools, and/or verge planting along strategic corridors
Areas of valued native vegetation and critical habitat are protected	3.4	Map remnant vegetation and critical habitat, and spatially represent in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the Planning and Design Code to minimise development impacts

Table 3: Outcomes and actions.



4. Future-proofing our urban forest

Climate change is already impacting the sustainability of metropolitan Adelaide's urban forest, which is largely comprised of a small number of plant families with varying tolerances to the projected warming and drying. It will be important to increase the diversity of our urban forest to improve climate resilience, as well as ensure adequate water is available to support sustainable growth.

Outcomes	Ref	Actions
Increased knowledge and availability of locally endemic and climate-resilient plant species	4.1	Develop up-to-date guidance to drive appropriate and climate-resilience species selection in a variety of contexts
	4.2	Undertake trials to identify appropriate trees for Adelaide's projected future climate
	4.3	Investigate ways to increase the provision of local endemic and climate-resilient plant species and seed at scale
Improved urban forest resilience and health	4.4	Identify and solve threats to the health of the urban forest from pests and diseases
	4.5	Model future water demands for meeting greening targets and support greater use of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and recycled water
Government, councils, developers and community motivation and capacity is increased	4.6	Scale up established WSUD capacity-building programs that are working well

Table 4: Outcomes and actions.

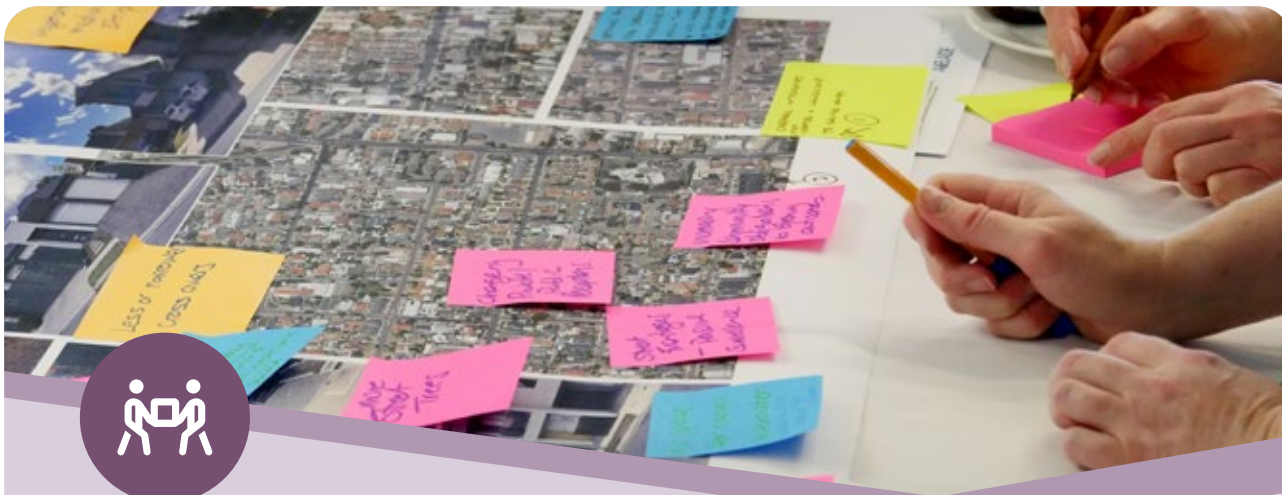


5. Improving greening equity

Research demonstrates that if a person has trees and other vegetation within view of their home, place of work or school, it benefits their mental health and productivity. Not all residents in Adelaide have equitable access to urban green spaces and, in turn, the benefits they provide. It is vital to identify how to best prioritise urban greening investment where it is needed most.

Outcomes	Ref	Actions
Urban greening investments are prioritised in areas of low greenery, high urban heat and high socio-economic disadvantage	5.1	Refine the Greening Prioritisation Pilot Study and consider the inclusion of additional datasets
	5.2	Develop a greening prioritisation tool and investigate how it could be used in urban green investment decision-making, including relevant grants programs
	5.3	Integrate urban heat mapping into the planning system and identify an appropriate policy response
Priority areas for new and/or improved green open space are identified	5.4	Prepare an open space strategy to identify priority areas for new or improved green open space and tree canopy
Locations for new feasible plantings are identified to expand the urban forest	5.5	Identify the potential locations of 'new plantable space' for trees

Table 5: Outcomes and actions.



6. Scaling up impact by working together

The need for urban greening action is strong and growing within the community. There is an opportunity for this work to be better coordinated and facilitated at a metropolitan-scale to enable the growing momentum to be translated into collective impact. It is also important to develop effective partnership models with Kurna people to help heal our landscape.

Outcomes	Ref	Action
Roles and responsibilities are clear, learnings are shared, co-investment is optimised and cross-sector challenges are addressed	6.1	Prepare an implementation plan to identify opportunities for greater coordination, efficiencies and impact
	6.2	Investigate funding mechanisms for expanding urban greening, water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and biodiversity sensitive urban design (BSUD) delivery
Quality information, research and guidance to achieve urban greening is available to all	6.3	Develop an applied research pipeline to identify and fill knowledge gaps
	6.4	Develop a centralised hub to share knowledge across the region, between sectors and with the community
	6.5	Extend the reach of established bridging organisations and networks that are working well
Aboriginal wisdom is recognised and partnership opportunities are facilitated	6.6	Work with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) to identify opportunities for partnerships with Kurna

Table 6: Outcomes and actions.

Fast facts about metropolitan Adelaide's greenery

About

17%
tree
canopy cover

90%
of native vegetation has been
cleared
since 1836
(European colonisation)

Green spaces are nature's
air-conditioners – they

reduce air
temperature
of the area by as much as

5°C - 10°C

69%
of trees are
less than
10m tall

+0.2°C

average urban
heat intensity
increased
from 2014 to 2023

Get involved

We want your thoughts on the draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide. Read the full draft strategy and get involved by visiting the YourSay website.

Key events and dates

- Public consultation is open for 8 weeks from 30 April to 28 June 2024.
- Strategy will be finalised based on feedback by late 2024.

How will the strategy be delivered?

Once the strategy is finalised, a separate implementation plan will be developed and managed by Green Adelaide.



Have your say by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/urban-greening-strategy>

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